

FSSAC Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

3rd Floor Conference Room

Colonial Building, 2401 Colonial Drive

March 9, 2006

Present:

Members: Diana Colgrove, Priscilla Halcro, Sandi Marisdotter, Ted Maloney, Sandi McGennis, Sylvia Danforth, Cris Volinkaty, Patti Russ, Dan McCarthy, Veronica Whitaker

DDP staff: Erica Swanson, Child and Family Liaison, and Jackie Emerson, Program Support.

New members were introduced: Priscilla Halcro, from Quality Life Concepts in Great Falls, is the new Family Support Specialist representative and Veronica Whitaker, a Clinical Program Officer, is the new representative from Children's Mental Health

The agenda was reviewed and revised.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Sylvia made a motion to accept the minutes. Sandi seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

Ted provided the new members with a review of the history, mission, and activities of the Council.

DDP Update: (Jeff Sturm)

EPP: The Department is preparing Executive Planning Process (EPP) proposals for the Governor's Office, which, if approved, will be included in the Budget for the next biennium. While there is a projected State surplus, the federal government is reducing funding to the Medicaid programs. The State legislature will be asked to add General Fund dollars to keep the current funding level.

DDP has combined budget requests so that proposals will be separated into 3 areas:

- 1) Rate rebasing - to reflect the cost of doing business in Montana DDP will be asking for a provider rate increase based on the rates for services in the rate system
- 2) Waiting List – requesting funds that would be used to reduce the waiting list and increase funds for Part C – funds will be used to keep the entitlement programs whole and move 200 people (100 each year of the biennium) off the waiting list – the waiting list individuals would primarily be those individuals with no services
- 3) Travis D settlement - \$200,000 in crisis funds – DDP will be asking that these funds be annualized

The first two proposals were ranked high in priority on the overall list for DPHHS. The proposals will be evaluated according to the Governor's goals, which include sustainability.

Legislation: DDP will submit a proposal for a statute that will allow community commitments (commitment to community-based services). The law would give providers help in making consumers follow through with conditions of community placements.

MDC will also ask for removal of the “total care” language for commitment to MDC. The MDC commitment would then only be for those individuals who are a danger to self or others.

FES/IFES Placement Survey: DDP sent out a survey to gather information on individuals from DD services who have been placed in out-of-home or out-of-state facilities due to behavioral issues. These individuals may need higher level DD services in the next 2-3 years and we are trying to keep them from going to MDC. If committed to MDC, an individual’s family support usually stops and the person goes into State custody and is much more expensive to serve. It would be helpful to know about a person before they go into State custody or out-of-state placement. There is currently a list of 8-9 individuals who will probably need DD services between now and June. The information gathered from the survey will be used to educate Legislators and advocate for needs in preparing for the coming session.

In the survey, 39 individuals were identified: ages 6-21; 64% males; 30 had a mental health diagnosis; 15 were involved with Child Protective Services with 11 that were in custody of CPS; 6 were placed in out-of-state facilities; and 14 were living with a single parent. Of those with mental health issues, 51% of them were identified as autistic. The group stated concern regarding possible duplication of services and a need for streamlining services for the dual diagnosed (DD/MH). The KMA’s in the communities have not been able to be effective due to lack of funding. Providers and Regional staff reported being involved with the KMA’s.

Rates Project Child and Family reviews: Data from DDP for all IFES individuals has been given to the accounting firm that will be conducting a review of services and funding in order to set a rate for the FSS service for Child and Family providers. The review will only verify where dollars are spent and will not be an audit. The contract for the review was awarded to Galusha, Higgins, and Galusha. The deadline for finishing the review and report to DDP is April 18th. A 10% sample was pulled from every IFES provider, which crossed ages and cost plans. Providers were given a schedule of the visits to agencies and the statement of work. Providers were encouraged to send someone on family visits who could help the family feel comfortable and help the accountant verify that services were delivered.

DDP may consider a capitated rate for the service. The case management piece will not be pulled from the FSS service; it is just a piece of the service that already has a rate. Providers reported that they currently do not document the amount of time spent with a family, only the number of contacts and that it is important to consider the functioning level of the family.

Karen McGowan training: An announcement has been sent out regarding the upcoming workshop by Karen McGowan on *Supporting People with Complex Disabilities In the Community*. The workshop will take place:

April 3rd – Missoula Doubletree (seating for 200)

April 5th – Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn (120)

April 7th – Billings Sheraton (130)

There will be no registration fee, the workshop is free to all. Staff, families, therapists (OT/PT), and anyone else who would benefit from the information are welcome. There will be sessions with individual providers at a later time with more individualized information.

State Application for Part C funds: The Application for this fiscal year was completed and placed out for public review on February 1. The application is similar to last year's because the Part C rules and regulations are not final and published. The next application is expected to be large because of the rule and policy changes that will need to be in place for the new regulations.

Due Process/Mediation: Ted and Erica have been working on the State's formal complaint process and making it easier for the FSS and family to understand. It should be ready by the end of the month and will be sent out in draft form for feedback. It will not be finalized until the rules and regulations are published so that the process will be sure to be compliant.

1st Steps Manual: The next task for Ted and Erica will be to begin the rewrite of the 1st Steps manual. It, too, will be in draft form until the rules and regs are published so that changes can be made.

OSEP monitoring visit: OSEP has scheduled a monitoring visit to Montana on September 11 & 12 to evaluate how the State monitors provider services and data collection. They will look at how Central Office uses the data to assess and improve services and protect child and family rights.

Child Count: The 2005 Child Count showed that the number of children receiving Part C services were up 6.5% over last year. The overall total unduplicated count was up 133; ages birth to 1 was down 23; 1 to 2 was up 15; 2 to 3 was up 55; the number eligible for Part B was up 17. The federal agency will be looking at how DDP uses this data for program planning. The number of infants, birth to 1 year, is down for the 2nd year in a row.

Providers are seeing an increase in the number of meth and CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) referrals and the number of NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) babies identified for referral. The numbers with autism spectrum disorder are also up. California has seen a decrease in autism for the last 2 years, which may be attributed to removing mercury from vaccines.

Providers suggested looking at the changes in population, such as shifts, growth, and also comparing the number of kids being served and the resources used to see the amount of funding used to cover those served over the contracted amount.

State Performance Plan: The first phase of the review of the document was passed. The only recommendations were for changes to make the report better for the second phase. OSEP said that the report was well written and asked to use it as an example.

Strategic Plan: Ted covered the brief summary of the strategic plan. There may be an opportunity to apply for a new GSEG (General Supervision Enhancement Grant). AWACS (the DDP accounting and client database system) may be able to do some of the 618 Data but a separate electronic system would be needed to collect all the data for the performance report.

FSS Certification Process: Ted and Erica will be looking at updating the process and then will review the competencies, which may be impacted by the rules and regulations. The new rules will require research-based practices.

The next FSS certification event will take place in May. Erica needs to know if any of the providers have someone ready to go through the process.

Respite grant: As reported at the last meeting, Mike Hanshew received a grant to study current respite services across agencies. A survey will be sent out to respite providers and recipients that will try to determine what would meet the needs of both. The grant through Senior and Long Term Care is a 3-year Alzheimers demonstration grant designed to coordinate increased access to caregivers in rural areas.

DPHHS Director Joan Miles stopped by the meeting to introduce herself and meet all the members of the Council, as well as to learn what the Council's purpose is.

Outcome training and data collection: Erica thanked the workgroup members and Child and Family providers for all the work they have done to help develop the data collection process for gathering the baseline data on early childhood outcomes for the 2007 performance report. The group attended training with Kathy Hebbeler from the ECO (Early Childhood Outcome) Center and has been working on redesigning the process and guidelines for Montana.

Dr. Laura Nicholson letter: Dr. Nicholson is an MD from the Billings area who is advocating for automatic Part C eligibility for all preemies. Providers reported that some physicians disagree with her view. They also reported that they all get referrals from the neonatal units and serve some babies who are premature but that an automatic referral would not be good. Referring all preemies would probably triple or quadruple the number of referrals. Sylvia will talk to Pat Gum and/or Gary Garlock for more information, since Dr. Nicholson is from the Billings area and then will contact the doctor. Erica will draft a letter, if needed, and will work with Sylvia.

UNBHS Taskforce: The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Taskforce is looking at ways to deal with the problem of tracking individuals who have not been referred to MSDB (Montana School for the Deaf and Blind) and Part C. Part C is not part of the data system used by UNBHS so they are looking at funding to add to the database. In the meantime, MSDB will refer to Part C. MSDB only has two outreach people and are hoping that Part C agencies would identify one person in each agency to be trained and to act as a resource for FSS's regarding information on deaf and blind services.

FSSAC Appointments: The Governor's Office sent a list of possible new members but did not specify what group they would represent. They will review the information sent regarding the required balance of the membership and, until notified otherwise, the Council was instructed to proceed with business as usual. Erica will send an email notifying those who did not reapply for membership.

John Clymer has resigned as the Child Protective Services representative and has asked for someone in the agency to replace him on the Council. Other vacancies include a Parent Representative from Region 2, a Medical Professional, and Children's Special Health Services (who have not yet hired a supervisor). Also needed is a representative to the homeless population. Veronica has worked on the Policy Group for the Homeless and may qualify; the lead agency will be contacted to designate someone.

Erica is working to generate participation on the Council. The feeling is that the group needs a task to do and more of a purpose.

Next Meeting:

Family Story: Sandy McGennis or Sandi Marisdotter will ask a family to come share their story.

Action items:

- Email sign up
- Ted was asked to write a history of the FSSAC
- Gather stats on total number of preemies in the State versus the number served by Part C providers
- Verify eligibility forms – bring to the next meeting
- Erica and Sylvia will contact Dr. Nicholson and draft a letter
- FSS Comprehensive Certification in May
- Child Find data analysis + preschool data (from Dan McCarthy) + data on kids in childcare with special needs by age by service (from Patti Russ)

Agenda items:

- Outcomes update
- Legislative information

Reports:

Dan (OPI) – will be presenting *IDEA on Early Childhood* in Missoula with Erica at the Council on Exceptional Children; OPI is also looking at the Indicators and Early Childhood Outcomes and how to take advantage of all the data there

Sandi (MSDB) – distributed copies of the MSDB newsletter; a signing instruction workshop will be held in Bozeman on April 7-9

Cris (CDC) – Child and Family providers are waiting to see the rates

Patti (Childcare) – A new 5-year RFP will be issued for statewide inclusion services and input from the Council would be appreciated; the Childcare Plus Symposium was cancelled and has not been rescheduled.

Web Update: The website has been updated and can be accessed at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/fssac/>. If you have any additions or changes, let Jackie know.